

County Trends



Uintah

June 2003

A Local Economic Perspective

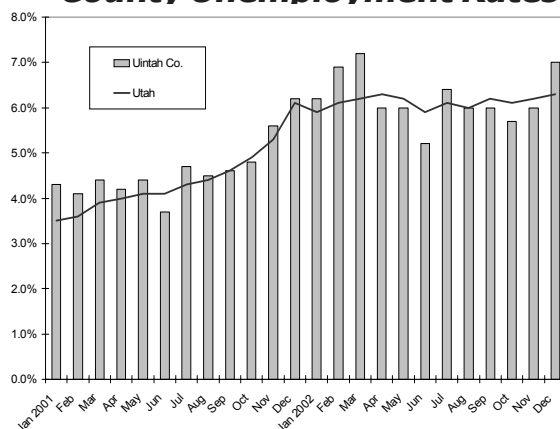
Job Growth Stagnant in Uintah County

Nonagricultural jobs showed slight growth in the second half of 2002 in Uintah County. Mining continues to struggle. Business and Professional Services and Trade also were weak. Yet, the most current unemployment rate for April 2003 was 5.6 percent, a significant drop from the 7.0 percent in April 2002.

Employment Barely Grows

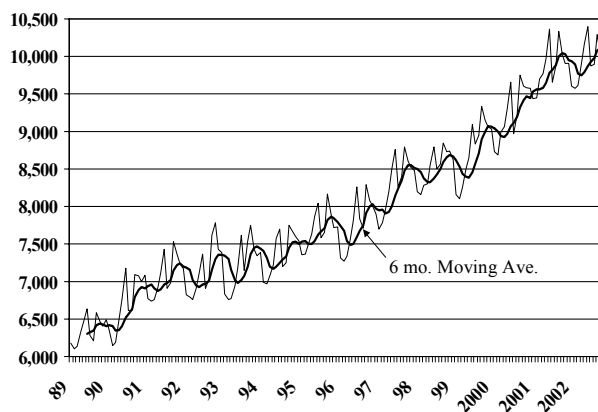
Year-over nonfarm job growth in Uintah County was sparse during the third and fourth quarters of 2002, continuing the trend experienced during the first half of the year. Third quarter squeaked out a 0.6 percent increase while fourth quarter rose a slim 0.8 percent. Oil and gas activity continued to stumble, though it actually added a few jobs in the fourth quarter. However, those slight gains were offset by losses in other mining activity. Overall, mining lost 60 jobs, mostly related to exploration. Construction suffered losses in heavy construction as road, water projects, and buildings were completed. One bright spot was an increase in manufacturing jobs, which added around 25 positions in the latter half of 2002. Wood, leather, and machinery manufacturing accounted for the gains.

Seasonally Adjusted Uintah County Unemployment Rates



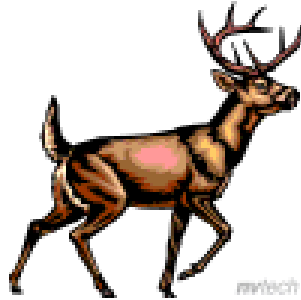
Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

Monthly Nonfarm Employment in Uintah County, 1989-2002

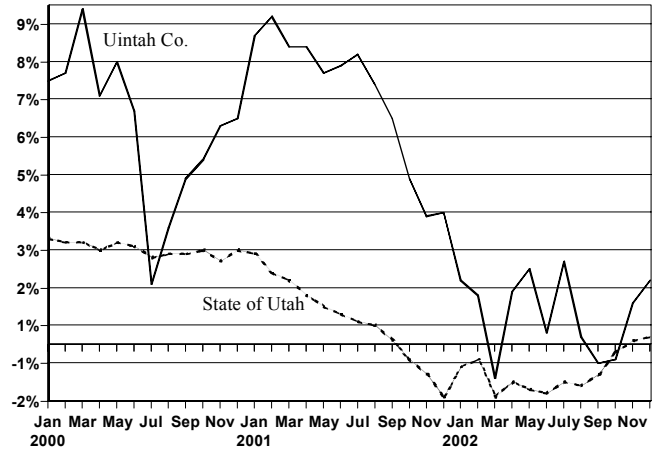


Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.





Year-Over Change in Uintah County Employment



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

To the Point

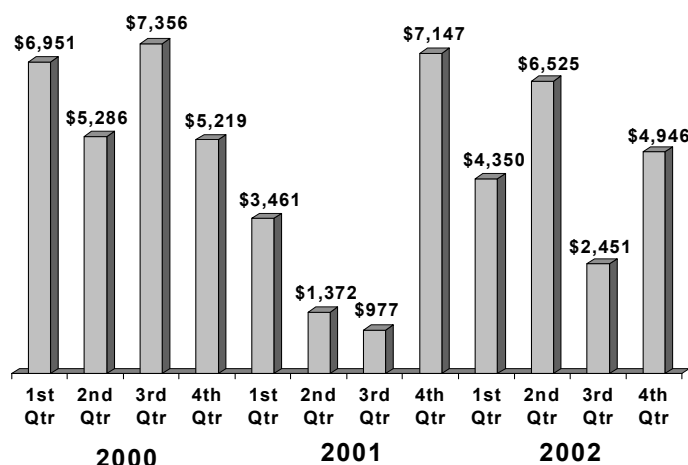
Nonfarm job growth remained sluggish during the second half of 2002 as oil and gas activity continued to struggle. On the positive side, oil and gas jobs seemed to have stabilized in the fourth quarter. On the other hand, the fall out from corporate mergers and uncertainty of overseas supplies have dampened the development of domestic reserves.

What few jobs were added in Uintah County were primarily in services-producing industries. Year-over data for the last half of 2002 show that health care added around 60 jobs, while financial services, insurance, and real estate added an additional 25. Growth in other services industries was slight. Still, some areas lost jobs such as trucking, utilities and retail trade. Government employment rose by 125 positions, most in local government administration and education. Some federal jobs were added in land management.

Construction Takes Off

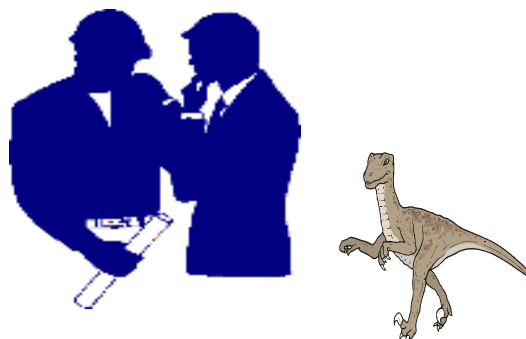
Year-over construction activity, as measured by permit authorizations, slid by 9 percent in total valuation over the last six months of 2002. Residential construction remained strong with units rising from a near eight in 2001 to 56 in 2002. Single-family and manufactured homes/cabins increased.

Uintah County Total Construction Permit Valuation



(Thousands of dollars)

Source: Utah Bureau of Economic & Business Research.



Nonresidential activity showed some growth as its valuation rose 29 percent. However, the valuation of renovation work declined sharply.

Sales Falter

Year-over gross taxable sales eroded further in the third quarter (-9.5%) and fourth quarters (-16.9%) of 2002. Sharp drops were reported in mining, construction, electric, and gas sales. Communication sales expanded. Retail trade sales grew slightly, thanks to automobile vehicle sales. Services sales faltered as business and repair services declined.

Outlook for 2003 -2004

The outlook for 2003 and 2004 is for more slow growth. Energy demands will grow, but development of domestic reserves will be lethargic as energy companies merge and firms face stiff competition with foreign sources. This slowdown in energy developments will hinder the growth in other sectors of Uintah County's economy.

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Quick Facts

April 2003

Unemployment Rate

Uintah County	5.6%
Utah	5.3%
U.S.	6.0%

Dec. 2002 Change from Previous Year

Job Growth

Uintah County	1.7%
Utah	0.2%
U.S.	-0.2%

4th Qtr 2002 Change from Previous Year

Construction Values

Uintah County	-30.8%
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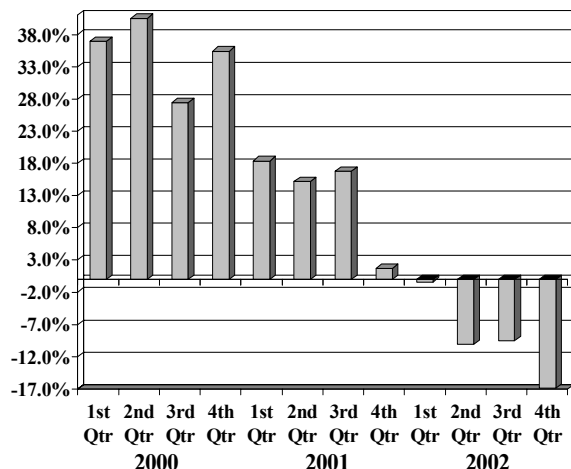
Sales

Uintah County	-16.9%
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Source: Utah Dept of Workforce Services,
Bureau of Labor Statistics,
Utah Tax Commission,
Bureau of Econ & Business Research.

**For more economic information about Uintah County see:
<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/County.asp>**

Year-Over Change in Uintah County Gross Taxable Sales



Source: Utah Tax Commission.

The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of employers, job seekers, and the community.

What's Up? ⁴

- An \$8.2-million expansion of the Ashely Valley Medical Center is under-way and should be completed by June 2005.
- The Ashely Valley Water and Sewer Improvement District received \$710,000 from Utah's Permanent Community Impact Fund.
- Congress passed its 2003 spending bill, with funds impacting the Uintah Basin being \$24.8 million in water rights for the Ute Tribe.

For more economic events, see:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/Regions/eastern/uintah/uintahee.pdf>



Equal Opportunity Employment Program
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Call (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call the state relay at 1-800-346-4128



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